

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on Thursday, December 1, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Legislator Kate Browning, Chair
Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher, Vice-Chair
Legislator John Kennedy
Legislator Jack Eddington
Legislator Sarah Anker

Also In Attendance:

Presiding Officer Bill Lindsay - District #8
George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Renee Ortiz - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
Craig Freas - Budget Analyst/Legislative Budget Review Office
Diane Dono - Budget Analyst/Legislative Budget Review Office
Josh Slaughter - Aide to Legislator Browning
Nancy Jacobsen - Aide to Legislator Gregory
Jack Caffey - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Marge Acevedo - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Kris Oliva - Aide to Legislator Anker
Eric Kopp - Assistant County Executive
Tom Vaughn - County Executive Assistant
Dr. James Tomarken - Commissioner/SC Department of Health Services
Greg Blass - Commissioner/Suffolk County Department of Social Services
Ed Hernandez, Deputy Commissioner - SC Department of Social Services
Linda O'Donohoe - Asst to the Commissioner/SC Dept of Social Services
Amy Juchatz - Suffolk County Department of Environment & Energy
Michele Crosby - Suffolk County Department of Environment & Energy
Richard Meyer - AME
Richard Koubek - Chair/Welfare-to-Work Commission
Barbara Magcliff - Suffolk County League of Women Voters
Mary Finnin - Public Health Nursing in Suffolk County
Anthony Doroska - Resident of Riverhead
Siobhan Ciresi - Long Island Sky-Watch
James Pikoulas - Long Island Sky-Watch
Cynthia Pikoulas - Long Island Sky-Watch
Bob DiBenedetto - Co-Chair/Suffolk County Cancer Awareness Task Force
Beverly Flaherty - Babylon Breast Cancer Coalition
Karel Bott - Resident of Long Island
Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney, Court Stenographer

*(*The meeting was called to order at 2:03 P.M. *)*

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay, good afternoon. I think we have quorum, now we can start. If everyone would please rise, we'll start with Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Anker.

Salutation

And if you would stay standing, today is the World AIDS Day in memory of people who have lost their lives around the world to the AIDS virus.

Moment of Silence Observed

Thank you. Okay, we have some cards. We also have a presentation, but we'll start with the cards first. Our first speaker is Anthony DaRoska. And for anyone who has never been here before, you have three minutes.

MR. DAROSKA:

Hello?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Hold the button.

MR. DAROSKA:

Okay, thank you. Hello. My name is Anthony DaRoska. And before I start, I would like to say that there is a bumper sticker that we all should have heard, "If you're not paying attention -- If you're pissed off, you're not paying attention." I just wanted to say that.

My name is Anthony DaRoska and I have about six years of learning about geo-engineering, or commonly known as chem-trails. I have also recently found out that there was a covert operation for the space shuttle program that ran from 1981-2011. I have the document from the Navy Research Laboratory's press release and it talked about how Dr. Bernhardt in the past was sponsored for Ionospheric Modification Research by the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program, HAARP, in Alaska.

I also brought with me the bill HR 2977 Space Preservation Act; the HR 2977 mentioned to ban exotic weapons which included chem-trails. But in 2002 the bill was rewritten to HR 3616, but the exotic weapons and chem-trails have been removed. I also brought a patent, No. 75 -- 7,582,809, which this invention relates to major aluminum tolerant gene for plants. There is an excellent documentary called "What in the World are They Spraying?" That explained that Aluminum, Barium, Strontium are being sprayed from these planes. I personally can say that my family had tested high for Aluminum. I have mentioned it to my doctor and he had stated that it sounds like it's environmental. These are toxins that are harmful to humanity.

***(*Legislators Kennedy & Vilorio-Fisher
Entered the meeting at 2:07 P.M. *)***

Another big problem of them aerosol spraying the skies is that they are blocking the sun, and Vitamin D deficiency has been rising. Alzheimer's Disease is rising because of Aluminum toxicity, and Barium can cause high blood pressure problems; certain types of Strontium can cause Leukemia. I also used to enjoy looking up at the beautiful skies, beautiful blue skies. Now it's like sky graffiti; there's with X's and grid-line patterns. They eventually expand throughout the day covering the whole sky; it makes the skies gray and dreary. Some of these planes, super jets, they can hold 250,000 gallons and come from Evergreen Airway International. Evergreen

Everyway -- Airway International was an Air America which was CIA-owned; they have international rights meaning they can fly in different countries' air space. It has -- it is affecting the health of all of us. It is affecting our plants, our trees, our oceans, our entire environment. Our government and other governments have mass destructive weapons at the touch of a button. The chem-trails are now inputted in old and current movies and today's magazines to make the people think that it's normal. I have to say, this is one major crime against humanity. We have to put a stop to this. So I hope that the bill that was proposed will be voted on and passed; it would be a start. I hope all the states of our nation will follow, plus other nations. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Next we have Cynthia PiKoulas.

MS. PIKOULAS:

I have packets.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You can give it to the Clerk, she'll pass it out. You can go ahead while she's passing it out.

MS. PIKOULAS:

I can?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah, go ahead.

MS. PIKOULAS:

I'm also referring -- I came to speak on the public law for December 6th with a law that's being proposed to --

MS. MAHONEY:

You need to hold the button down while you speak.

MS. PIKOULAS:

Oh, I have to hold it? Okay. Hi. I'm also coming to speak on the public hearing to hopefully pass the law that is being proposed for the Air Quality Act on December 6th. In one of the packets you'll refer to, it is an SRM which is Solar Radiation Management which is one of the plans of geo-engineering and its purpose is to reflect sunlight back out into space to hopefully stop the warming of the planet.

The problem with that is that it doesn't really do anything to stop carbon dioxide, which most of the scientists are saying that is causing the planet; if anything, it masks it. What it will do is decrease sunlight, it will increase ocean acidification because, like I said, it does nothing to stop carbon dioxide. It will also decrease sunlight to our agricultural. I'm not sure if anybody has really taken a good look at the trees on Long Island, but most of them are in what's called die-off. And a lot of that -- there was a wonderful book, The Dying of the Trees written by Charles Little in the 1980's. A lot of that is due to the excess Aluminum that's being -- which is one of the things that's being proposed in these geo-engineering programs; aluminum, Barium, Sulfur. And what happens when trees absorb Aluminum is that they can't absorb the other nutrients and they start to die-off. If they're dropping Aluminum down on the ground to reflect the sunlight back, the trees are absorbing more Aluminum. As it will also increase acid rain, because Sulfur is one of the things that they're talking about and when acid rain hits soil, the -- it also helps release the Aluminum from the soil. Aluminum is not a stand-alone metal in the soil, so it will definitely impede -- it will not just impede the trees, it will impede crops, it will impede plants, it will impede anything. Not even just to mention what it will do to us who are getting decreased sunlight.

Also, one of the things that they're talking about is using the jets to release these chemicals into the atmosphere which will also release Black Carbon. Black Carbon is a greenhouse gas, as is the water vapor that comes out of the jets that produces the persistent jet contrails. They are not referring to doing anything to stop this. One of the things that these contrails do is they create cirrus cloud cover which reduces sunlight. The contrails can extend something like 20,000 miles, and if you notice, we get an awful lot of cloudy days, aside from the from the contrails that we see in the sky.

When you put all of these metals into the atmosphere, it also increases ozone depletion. And as was recently in a study, and I might have it in the packet, our ozone has also deteriorated significantly. And with that comes many other problems which I don't have to tell you about --

*(*Timer Sounded*)*

Is that my time?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yes, it is. However, you do have an opportunity to -- there is a Public Hearing for this, so you'll have five minutes at the Public Hearing.

MS. PIKOULAS:

I'll be back.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, I just have a question.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Question.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Because this is a pretty generic kind of law that's being proposed here which is adopting a Local Law to protect air quality in Suffolk County, so that entities that will be emitting certain chemicals into the air would have to file with the County. So it sounds like you've got a lot farther than is suggested in this particular --

MS. PIKOULAS:

Oh, I wanted a lot more.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. So if you could, when you come to the public hearing, can you try to address more directly the things that are in the law so that we can know exactly the position that you're taking on what is written in the law? And I appreciate you bringing all this information to us, but you're just going a lot farther than this information particular law goes.

MS. PIKOULAS:

Okay, so just -- I'm a little confused.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

You've read the legislation?

MS. PIKOULAS:

Yes.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

And it's basically asking that entities that are going to be emitting certain chemicals file an Environmental Impact Statement with the County; and I have a question about that to Counsel whether or not we can do that, I'm not sure. But if you can just react to the particular chemicals that are in the law, or maybe I missed your point. I thought you seemed to be going very far afield from what was described in the law.

MS. PIKOULAS:

Well --

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Maybe I'll speak with you one-on-one after the meeting. Okay?

MS. PIKOULAS:

Okay.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

All right? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Next is James Pikoulas.

MR. PIKOULAS:

Hello. My name is James Pikoulis. I'm here with my wife and friends regarding geo-engineering and the law we're trying to have passed.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I'm not seeing geo-engineering.

MR. PIKOULAS:

What we're trying to bring attention to and have stop is any entity spraying us over Suffolk County. So, you know, this does get very deep, we're talking weather modification, it could be used for -- they have an awful lot of patents, there's a lot of things that can be going on here.

It is a general law, and it's a start because, you know, it's new to everybody. And this is not just the law we want passed, we are trying to raise awareness of how long this has been going on, what's going on and how it's impacting everybody. The United Nations, in 2010, one hundred and ninety nations agreed to a United Nations bill to ban geo-engineering. Okay? So that was -- it's banned in a 190 nations except -- well, not except ours, but we're one of the few that has not signed on to that. Congress, in 2010, the U.S. House of Representatives has had three meetings, Committee on Science, Technology and Geo-Engineering. There's no public oversight, there's no agricultural or medical people looking at any of this. This is -- Council of Foreign Relations, which is a private entity, is involved in this. Again, no public oversight to what's going on.

We have U.S. Senate Bill 601, and this is included in packet two. It's something that just keeps being reintroduced and getting knocked down; reintroduced, getting knocked down. So we're really scared that they're going to just pass it eventually and allow this.

There's been a Silomar Conference 2009, Climate Intervention Technologies, and that was including only corporations. Currently there are 69 weather modification programs in the United States; again, no oversight, very little awareness. We look at -- we have in packet No. 2 a weather modification -- excuse me, a form you could submit to have rain sprayed or snow or clear your skies. We have weather modification companies that advertise on the Internet, "Some people see clouds, we see potential." There are other companies, justclouds.com. So the reason why I'm

mentioning these companies is because this is very real, they have been going on for quite a while. Weather is traded on the stock market; it's an \$8 billion a year business.

*(*Timer Sounded*)*

I thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. Siobhan, I'm going the mess up your -- Ciresi?

MS. CIRESI:

That's okay. Siobhan Ciresi. Good afternoon.

MS. ORTIZ:

You want these distributed?

MS. CIRESI:

Yes, please, that would be great. I just want to start off by saying we're using the term geo-engineering because in that legislation there's Barium, Aluminum, Sulfur and Salts, and these are included in the geo-engineering schemes we're speaking about. So that's why Barium, Aluminum, Sulfur and Salts appear in the legislation, is because that's part of the geo-engineering. Okay?

So geo-engineering, also known as climate remediation or solar radiation management, would have an economic and human health impact on Suffolk County by negatively impacting the protective ozone layer, increasing cloud cover and decreasing direct sunlight thereby causing Vitamin D deficiencies. Vitamin D deficiencies lead to rickets, asthma, allergies, increased cancer, osteoporosis, depression, diabetes and other health problems, according to Mayo Clinic. These illnesses could overburden the Suffolk County health care system through decreased worker productivity, increased sick days and pharmaceutical costs. Geo-engineering would have the health impacts on Suffolk County as according to NASA, if ice particles form from the persistent jet contrails we see as one example. The ice particulars allow complete chemical reactions to take place in a manner that can deplete stratospheric ozone, thus allowing high UV radiation ratings at the Earth's surface. According to the CDC, too much exposure to UV rays can lead to skin cancer. UV rays also have been linked to eye damaging conditions such as cataracts.

Geo-engineering would have an economic and health impact on Suffolk County as negative health effects may be increased due to high concentrations of fine particulate Sulfate and Alumina, small and nano-sized particles. Aluminum Oxide is one of the light-reflecting materials under serious consideration, according to the Unilateral Geo-Engineering Workshop at Council on Foreign Relation Affairs and David Keith at the 2010 American Association for the Advancement of Science Meeting on Geo-Engineering. Aluminum Oxide causes birth and developmental effects, brain and nervous system effects, reproduction and fertility problems, as noted by the Environmental Working Group.

Geo-engineering would have an economic impact on Suffolk County as the individuals and corporations researching and funding such programs stand to reap profits upon implementation at unknown health, environmental and monetary costs to citizens, according to the Bulletin of the atomic Scientists. Governments and private entities in Germany, India, Russia and the UK are exploring and moving ahead with their own geo-engineering or climate remediation research efforts. Controversies have already arisen in the international diplomatic arena, according to the Bipartisan Policy Center's Task Force on Climate Remediation Research. As such, the public must be informed and public consent must be mandatory to avoid governments or implementations of such programs by private corporations, wealthy individuals, foreign nations or proponents of these type of programs.

Geo-engineering will have an economic impact on Suffolk County as chemicals, particulars, gases, vapors mentioned in that legislation and other compounds or contaminants used in such experiments would violate New York State Environmental Conservation Law. Under Article 1, Title 3-1-0303. General Definitions, 19; *"Pollution shall mean the presence in the environment of conditions and/or contaminants in quantities of characteristics which are or may be injurious to human, plant or animal life, or to property or which unreasonably interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property throughout such areas of the state as shall be affected thereby."*

In closing, please note that the EPA's criteria maximum concentration allowed for Aluminum in surface waters is 750 parts per billion. The criteria for continuous concentration is 87 parts per billion. In your packets you have several Suffolk County surface water samples showing levels of Aluminum exceeding both of these criteria by the hundreds and thousands. For one example, Islip High School pond water revealed 8,700 parts per billion of Aluminum. This is --

(*Timer Sounded*)

I'm closing. This is 7,950 parts per billion over the CMC and 8,613 parts per billion over the CCE, according to the EPA. In addition, Suffolk County snow, surface waters and tree bark also reveal not only hazardous levels of Aluminum, but Barium and Strontium contamination as well. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Don't go anywhere. Legislator Eddington has a question for you.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Well, the last -- you and the other two speakers have certainly got my attention. I mean, do I need to look for new housing? I mean, where is it -- you sound like a person who is saying, "Oh, my God, you won't believe what's going on in Suffolk. You better watch out." I mean, are you trying to scare me, is that what the purpose is?

MS. CIRESI:

Everything stated by all three of us and everything in your packets is fact that you can check. So this is --

LEG. EDDINGTON:

No, I'm not doubting it. It's like --

MS. CIRESI:

Yeah, alarming is like -- you know, yeah, you can be alarmed, but it's facts.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

I mean, how come we haven't heard about this before and is this -- is there a plot going on? Is there businesses that are doing this?

MS. CIRESI:

I can't speak to that, but I can speak to you not having heard it before. There's been very, very little media coverage; there has been some but it's very, very brief and not discussed again. So there's very little media coverage. Our Federal Government has had hearings, as Jim Pikoulas mentioned, between 2009 and 2010, three hearings on geo-engineering. So the Federal Government is very aware of this. Congress is very aware of this. It's the local governments, it's the people, it's the citizens who are not aware. So we are raising awareness. Yes, it could be interpreted as alarming, I agree with you on that. I'm not going to say it is or it isn't, right? I'm just going to speak to the facts.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

And I can tell you the facts are alarming, so.

MS. CIRESI:

Yes, they are.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you, Siobhan. And I'm assuming that you guys will be at the Public Hearing, it starts at 2:30.

MS. CIRESI:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And you will have five minutes again at that. Next we have Mary Finnin.

MS. FINNIN:

Good afternoon. I'm glad -- I guess I'm glad to be back. I do want to just say that today is December 1st, National AIDS Awareness Day. We've been dealing with that epidemic for 30 years and we're going to have to continue to deal with it. I just wanted to say that Long Island, outside of New York City, has the largest concentration of people living with HIV and AIDS, and yet with the budget cuts, we cannot expand our prevention programs and even provide the services that are needed with this ongoing epidemic. I just read that President Obama has -- is going to award 50 million to -- for prevention and education programs and I hope that we have our hand in the till to get some of that money, because we really need it in our health centers.

I do want to just say that while I'm very happy that all of our programs are continued for six months, I'm disappointed that -- having been one of the very few people that supported a tax increase, that when the tax increase was passed it's given to the Police, and they already had the major portion of the County tax budget. And I'm sorry that more money isn't being put in and a greater priority being put on health care and the social service needs of the community. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you, Mary. Dr. Richard Koubek.

MR. KOUBEK:

Good afternoon. I am Richard Koubek, I'm Chair of the Welfare-to-Work Commission of this Legislature. I'm speaking on behalf of Resolution 2002 that would extend the Welfare-to-Work Commission.

One of the WHEREAS clauses reads in the resolution, *"The commission has proven to be a valuable resource helping the County develop policies to assist working poor people and other citizens in need."* I'd like to just take a few minutes on behalf of this resolution to tell you how we've done that. The recent U.S. Census Survey show that there was a 50% increase in what are being called the near poor, people who are off welfare, never went on welfare but are struggling, and we have been advising the Legislature since 2003 on policies both for people on welfare and people who are in danger of falling into welfare.

We have 21 members. We meet monthly, always with a quorum. We have three standing committees and a number of ad hoc committees, and we have an excellent relationship with the Department of Social Services; I want to say for the record, especially under the leadership of Commissioner Blass.

You have before you eleven goals that we had for this year. I'm proud to say we've gone after all of them, so let me give a few examples of how we've been a valuable resource. Last year we released a report on sober homes, I think you saw it last week or two weeks ago in Newsday, and we were very helpful with the impetus of that report to assist Legislator Browning in drafting two resolutions that provided for enhanced rates for good sober homes. This year we worked very closely with Legislator Browning to create the Sober Homes Advisory Board legislation.

We're working with the Department of Social Services on a number of policies related to disabled people, developing a model policy here for Suffolk County. We just completed drafting a "Did You Know" brochure for clients, what are their rights, what are the services available. We're working on a communication strategy so that not-for-profits can work more closely with DSS on their mutual clients. We took pretty strong positions opposing the proposed cuts in the health centers and also in the staffing for the Department of Health, Social Services and Labor; thank you for restoring those funds, for the most part, and those staff positions.

And lastly, one last thing we did, we worked with the Department of Social Services and the Child Care Council to train 87 child care providers on how to identify and recognize and prevent child abuse. That's just some of what we have done this year. So I urge you to continue our commission. I thank you for the support in the past and I thank you for your attention now.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Hold on.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Don't go away, because I really want to thank you again publicly, Dick. You were in the original commission that I formed when I was Chair of Social Services and you're a bunch of volunteers and you've kept it up and done a great job. You've really made a difference. I'm very proud of that commission. Thank you very much.

MR. KOUBEK:

Thank you. And you did author that -- the first resolution.
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And thank you from me, too. Because I know when I came to you, you were kind of -- some of them were a little more resistant to my position on the sober homes and trying to do something on this, and I appreciate all the help that I've received from you guys.

MR. KOUBEK:

It was a pleasure.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Next is Karel Bott.

MS. BOTT:

This is my first time here. I'm wondering if I can --

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

You can't speak from there, you need to come to the mic.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah, come to the mic.

MS. BOTT:

I waive my three minutes until after the presentation.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You want to waive your three minutes till after --

MS. BOTT:

Until after the presentation?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

No, we really need you to come up. If I had known, I would have prepared.

MS. BOTT:

Okay. I'm not sure what I'm going to say, so I will waive my three minutes now.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. With that, we have our presentation. Bob DiBenedetto, Co-Chair of the Suffolk County Cancer Awareness Task Force, and whoever else you want to bring up with you. And Bob, if you would just introduce who is with you, please?

MS. FLAHERTY:

I'm Beverly Flaherty, I'm with the Babylon Breast Cancer Coalition.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Whenever you're ready.

MR. DiBENEDETTO:

All right, thank you very much. My name is Bob DiBenedetto, I'm the President of Healthy Planet, a non-profit health environmental education organization, and I am Co-Chair of the Prevention & Education Committee of the Suffolk County Cancer Awareness Task Force.

I'm here with and on behalf of other members of the task force to discuss the budget-related loss of the Office of Cancer Awareness and the Environmental Assessment -- and Environmental Assessment, and as a result, the loss of the Cancer Awareness Task Force. I'd like to explain the important role that this office plays, the need to continue this work and to keep the many important projects of the Cancer Awareness Task Force alive, and finally, to suggest that there are low budgetary impact solutions that could serve both the County and the community.

First, as you know, the Office of Cancer Awareness and Environmental Assessment was made up of three County positions; an Environmental Toxicologist who is being transferred to the Department of Health Services, an Environmental Analyst who is being transferred to the Department of Planning, and a Senior Clerk Typist whose position has been abolished. So as we discuss the value of this office and the great societal need for the services provided, keep in mind that all of this is being sacrificed in order to save the salary of just one Clerk Typist.

The Cancer Awareness Task Force is an initiative whose mission is to educate residents regarding the prevention of cancer and to increase access to care and expand cancer services for all County residents. The task force seeks to provide residents with actionable information and to serve as a model for other communities to follow. It's important to realize that the Cancer Awareness Task Force is not just made up of County employees. The task force has brought together over 35 community groups, each contributing to their time, expertise and energy to serve the public and the County at no cost in order to create an ongoing, valuable outreach to Suffolk County residents on the prevention and care of cancer.

With support of the three-person staff at the Office of Cancer Awareness and Environmental Assessment, the ideas of the Cancer Awareness Task Force come to fruition and are broadened by a wide variety of groups for free. It's hard to say how much this kind of outreach would cost the County if they had to pay for it. Now, why is this important? For so many reasons. For starters, it's important because cancer is a critically important public health issue. There were over 1.5 million cases of new cancer in the United States in 2010. There have been 572,000 deaths this year alone due to cancer. One of four deaths in the U.S. is caused by cancer. It is the second leading cause of death in the United States. One-in-two males and one-in-three females will develop cancer over their lifetime, and the National Institute of Health estimates that annual cancer costs in the U.S. are \$264 billion; that's a financial crisis.

In Suffolk, there are over 8,400 cases of cancer each year, and 2,800 deaths due to cancer each and every year. These numbers don't, in and of themselves, prove the need for the Cancer Awareness Task Force. However, when you then see that the Cancer Awareness Task Force addresses cancer issues that impact everyone from the general public to cancer survivors, you start to see the importance of this group and of the Office of Cancer Awareness and Environmental Assessment.

The subcommittees of the Cancer Awareness Task Force are Prevention & Education, Access to Care, Diverse Populations and Media, and we'll start with the Prevention & Education Committee. This committee focuses on ways to promote healthy life-style behaviors as well as reducing environmental exposures through the translation of evidence-based research to the public. Having that as a focus of the task force is enormous, given the power of prevention. Dietary factors accounts for about 30% of all cancers in western cultures, according to the World Health Organization. Exercise can reduce colon cancer by 30 or 40% or breast cancer by 20 to 80% with the greatest benefit occurring in post-menopausal women. Fully 38% of breast cancer could be prevented every year in the U.S. via modification of diet and life-style; that's 70,000 cases every single year. And that's why the New York State Cancer Control Plan estimates that 12,000 cases of cancer per year can be prevented.

Nationally, unbeknownst to most, according to the National Cancer Institute, 50 to 75% of cancer deaths could be prevented by modifying diet and life-style. And that's without even taking into account the large, unknown effects of environmental toxins in our bodies, with us living in a society with approximately 80,000 synthetic chemicals being used all around us. But none of this prevention is possible without outreach and education via efforts such as the Cancer Awareness Task Force.

The next subcommittee is Access-to-Care. Their goal is to increase access to cancer care and expand cancer services across a continuum of care. Their guiding principle is that every person in Suffolk County should have access to comprehensive cancer care services. This subcommittee was able to work with the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Association in submitting a joint letter addressing the need for changes in Medicaid reimbursement for cancer services. Once diagnosed, medical services for Medicaid patients, cancer patients, can be very challenging, especially on the east end which is an issue that the Cancer Awareness Task Force hopes to begin to tackle in the near future.

The Diverse Populations Committee exists to identify and address cancer health disparities among minority and medically underserved communities in Suffolk County. The goal of this committee is to ensure that these populations are equipped with the resources necessary to make informed decisions about their health and health care needs. A Minority Cancer Health Disparities Conference was held in November by the Department of Health Services and jointly planned with the Access-to-Care Committee.

Finally, there is the Media Committee whose role is to disseminate the information developed by the task force and committees. This committee has been involved in developing the logo website and will assist in press releases and other public information dissemination.

I would like to now briefly go into some of the accomplishments of the Cancer Awareness Task Force, even though many of these will appear in the packets that you will be receiving or have received. The first I'll mention is the cancer prevention strategy that was just finalized. This strategy's purpose was to put information into the hands of the public so that they are empowered to take action in choosing healthy lifestyle choices and in turn reducing their risk of cancer. This cancer prevention strategy received a 2010 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties in recognition of an effective and innovative program which contributes to and enhances County governments in the United States.

Another project of the Cancer Awareness Task Force are our smart tips. These are subject-oriented, evidence-based tip sheets written in a manner designed to catch people's attention and encourage them to reach more -- read more about a variety of cancer prevention topics. All these smart tips are posted on our website.

Lunch-and-Learns are lunch hour presentations offered for employees four to six times a year; topics cover cancer awareness and prevention. These effective outreach programs have reached over 700 attendees and were being showcased as models for use by other businesses and organizations. A lunch-and-learn tool kit brochure has recently been developed and is in your packets; this will be put on the website so businesses and municipalities can use the same approach for their employees.

Another project is the website itself, providing a centralized resource for cancer awareness info. In addition to containing all the task force's outreach and educational materials, it has suggested links for additional information.

Another project was the creation of the home product check list which is also in your packets. This brochure helps residents identify products and ingredients they may wish to keep out of their homes and offers natural, nontoxic alternatives. The top ten list is another way to get powerful information on cancer prevention to residents in a simple, easy-to-read format.

We also hosted the New York premiere of *No Family History*, which is a documentary film that asks powerful questions about exposure to environmental toxins. We sponsored the "Don't Sit/Stay Fit" exercise contest that awarded prizes to residents who share the best ideas on how to incorporate exercise into our daily lives. Former Jet star Bobby Jackson joins us for the award ceremony and press conference that was supported by local exercise equipment retailers as well. We also had an article in *In The Field Newsletter*, a newsletter prepared by the Center for Environmental Health at the New York State Department of Health and distributed to County Health Departments.

Over the years, the Cancer Awareness Task Force has gained the attention of the National Institute of Health. It is unprecedented that a County would develop strong, consistent partnerships among many MGO's that represent diverse interests in cancer and disease. The Cancer Awareness Task Force has made our County unique. This year we even hosted the Director of Extramural Research and training of the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences. They had known of our collaborations and educational materials and came to update us on research opportunities.

There are many other potential benefits to keeping this task force alive. Over the years there has been an important shift in funding research that must now include community partners to serve an active role in providing input and feedback on research projects. The task force is the perfect community partner for researchers from Brookhaven Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor labs and Stony Brook University. We played that role in 2008 when the Suffolk County Department of Health Services submitted a \$1 million HEAL-9 Grant application to the New York State Department of Health. This partnership could well translate into funds that dwarf the minimal savings attained by breaking up this highly productive office.

It is also important to recognize that the Office of Cancer Awareness and Environmental Assessment represents much more than just the Cancer Awareness Task Force. It represents a commitment to this County to consider a -- to considering and evaluating exposures we receive from chemicals in our environment and their potential to adversely affect our health, whether it's cancer, asthma, reproductive outcomes or learning disabilities. Suffolk County has shown its progressive thinking by having an office that evaluates these exposures and makes recommendations based on evidence and a precautionary principle. We have stood out as a leader on many issues such as BPA in baby bottles and safe and sustainable procurement. I don't think that anybody who has their finger on the pulse of health in America would be ready to give that up.

The office also ensures that County purchasing policies conform to the safe and sustainable procurement policy when purchasing automotive fleet maintenance, products and services, landscaping products and services, paint and coating products and services and paper products. They coordinate with the New York State Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation when evaluating the potential exposures to contaminants as this small department of three did with regard to the Speonk Groundwater plume, the Calverton Naval Weapon Site, the Brookhaven National Laboratory clean-up, and other County Office of Pollution Control projects. This office is the watchdog for Vector Control Pesticide Management Committee and oversees the phase-out of pesticides on County property. This office spearheads the remedial activities of County-led Brownfield sites.

How many people will it take to replace the ongoing knowledge of these three individuals currently doing all of this work? We don't know. We have been working for a long time to bring the Cancer Awareness Task Force to where it is today. Our educational materials are prepared, the cancer prevention strategy is prepared, our relationships are formed, we are primed and ready to go. We are discussing more forward thinking future endeavors including a possible safe and sustainable procurement summit, participation in support of a new vision for Long Island's move beyond fossil fuels, addressing access to care issues on the east end and sharing our resources with other counties that could, in effect, massively increase the impact of our already effective outreach.

I am hopeful that Suffolk County will continue to be a leader in making the connection that creating a healthy environment will in the end create healthier citizens. I am hopeful that we will not decide to tell our citizens that one small salary has stopped us from doing everything in our power to disseminate proven, life-saving information to their families.

I thank you all for your hard work in this budget. And I ask that when the opportunity arises, you do whatever is possible to save the Office of Cancer Awareness and Environmental Assessment and, as a result, the Cancer Awareness Task Force. The names of these entities can change, but let's not use the synergy and experience of these three people, this team and their connection with dozens of community groups who rely upon them to keep creating innovative and progressive programs that can be shared again and again by all. And again, we'll save countless lives in coming years from what is in many cases a preventable disease. Thank you on behalf of the dozens of members and organizations of this task force and on behalf of every resident of Suffolk County.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. And I think that we definitely will work to continue the Cancer Awareness group and continue to do the work. We have had some tough times and those positions are -- I understand, I know that one of them has moved to the Health Department, so she hasn't actually left, and it is something that we can work on. And I know that Legislator Anker does have some questions for you, and I know it's something she's very passionate about. So with that, Sarah?

LEG. ANKER:

Thank you. Again. Thank you for being here, Bob and the rest of the gang here. I'm very proud to have been part of the Cancer Awareness Task Force. When I was -- as I was the Director of

Community Health & Environment Coalition. And the reason why I started that not-for-profit was because I felt very strongly about our environment and what we did, what was involved in our environment directly affects our health. And, you know, we have scientific information, we have research, we have everything we need to know to prove this. And in that same thought, I will say as I was working towards creating awareness as a person involved with a not-for-profit advocacy, I found Suffolk County to be the most proactive government agency there was, whether it's local or State or Federal. You know, the governments were good. Suffolk County was proactive, engaged, they did something about it, and one of the things that they did was create the Cancer Awareness Task Force.

So again, I commend you, I support you. I hope that -- and I feel confident that we can create a safe haven for the Cancer Awareness Task Force to continue the work that you have been doing as advocates. And again, don't jump the ship, the ship has not sunk. And like I said, I will do everything I can to make sure that the good work that you're doing continues.

As far as the groups involved, I mean, again, I'm looking at all the many, many organizations, the many not-for-profits and even for-profits. I mean, we were working with businesses, we were working with supermarkets, we had donations on healthy food with some of the lunch programs where presentations would be given to County employees about how you can improve your health. And again, one of the most important words I have to say in relating to what we did with the task force is *prevention*. If we can prevent someone from coming down with cancer, especially children, because we know that they are the most vulnerable group of people in our society. And when -- you know, the scientists years ago, I'll say ten years ago, it doesn't seem that long ago, 20 years ago, when they would look at a chemical and they would say, "Okay, this chemical is fine. Humans really don't have much of an effect with that chemical"; well, they were looking at full-grown adults, they were not looking at children. Now it's a little -- it's more -- you know, they're more knowledgeable in understanding that per pound, per weight, per the effect, children are much more vulnerable to pesticides and to toxic cleaning products. And again, it was so inspirational to be part of a group, your group, our group; as a County Legislator, I can also say I'm still part of your group, this group. That we were creating the awareness and leading the campaign, as the County has done many times over, to protect the people in Suffolk County.

And what even was more -- just as important, those ideas that Suffolk County, whether it's legislation or creating a task force to help people around us, that eventually has been taken on to the State level and then across the country. I've seen it; as an advocate, I've seen what Suffolk County can do not just for our constituents here but for the people across the country. And again, I'm very proud to have been part of your group and continue to be part of the group and very supportive.

So I will do what I can in my power to make sure that the task force continues and also the department, how important department is right now. Suffolk County has a sole source aquifer, we must protect that. And there's been a number of environmental issues across our Island. And I know that when I was researching the air, I know we have the folks here that are concerned with the air and in the water and in the soil. So again, your particular group, though, you're looking into it, you're researching it. And it was -- when the organizations would get together during a task force meeting, it was the meeting of the minds, it was brainstorming, it was coming up with socially acceptable, proactive -- proactive issues and leading it, leading those issues and understanding those issues and actually doing something about those issues. You know, again, I just want to thank you again for presenting your presentation and I'll let my other Legislators fill in their point of views. Thank you.

MR. DiBENEDETTO:

Yeah, this is -- this is what you would want government to be, in an ideal world, something that gets together, identifies a problem that is really literally killing thousands of people every year, which

would be a catastrophe. If there were that many buildings burning every year, we would be just trying to figure out everything we could do to stop this, and we have the power and the ability to do this just by education. These numbers I mentioned are very understated, because the great thing is that when you approach a problem like cancer prevention, you're telling them about eating a proper diet, you're telling them about lifestyle modification, not drinking too much, not smoking, doing all the right things, and that impacts heart disease, stroke, diabetes, osteoporosis, kidney disease and so many other diseases that are also prevented. So these numbers are just the tip of the iceberg, but they are applying to cancer which is what this task force is about.

LEG. ANKER:

Let me also add, you know, humans are creatures of habit. You know, we like our habit, that's just how -- that's just what we do and that's how we are.

MR. DiBENEDETTO:

Right.

LEG. ANKER:

But in order to change those habits, you know, and before it was smoking, we need to be influenced. We need to be pulled off that track; and with smoking we have, seatbelts we have, we wear our seatbelts.

MR. DiBENEDETTO:

That's right.

LEG. ANKER:

And this is what your group is doing, you're talking about cancer. Cancer affects everybody, you know, whether the person has had it, they know someone who's had it. There is something you can do about it and that's why I formed my group, you know, seven, eight years ago, because when Mount Sinai was designated as a cancer cluster, you know, and my daughter had just been born, my grandmother died of breast cancer days after my daughter was born, I have three children, I said, "You know, there's really no place I can move." I know we had mentioned what can you do? You know, you've got chemicals all around you. There's no place on Earth you can go without getting away from chemicals. And we have to learn to live with them, just like we have to learn to live with everybody, you know, that's just life.

MR. DiBENEDETTO:

Right.

LEG. ANKER:

But there are ways to reduce your risk. And again, we're not -- we're not going out to the entire pie, we're taking pieces of that pie, you know, where it's manageable, where, you know, we can digest it. And hopefully, you know, it will make us healthy and it will make us not suffer what happens when people come down with cancer. And again, I thank you for doing that. And again, the main -- the word again I want to focus on is *prevention*. I know how important Karen Miller at the Huntington Breast Cancer Coalition has been, you know, and her fight in promoting prevention. So again, thank you.

MR. DiBENEDETTO:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. And Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you for being here. And I want to echo the sentiments of Legislator Anker, most everything that you put up there I think certainly bears focus and bears work on, and the fact that you have been able to aggregate all the resources is commendable.

But I just want to share with you for a second, being one of the Legislators that actually worked on the Working Group, and have you hopefully understand that the actions that you see that occurred with the consolidations should in no way, shape or form be taken by you as some kind of a reflection of the fact that this body didn't -- or doesn't value the work that you do; that's actually probably the furthest thing from the truth.

We have said it around this horseshoe probably now for the last three and a half months and it is like beating a dead horse, but I'm always willing to go ahead and take another swipe at the nag. We started with 710 layoffs that were handed to us by the County Executive, 710. And all the things that you speak about here would have been magnified multiple times over in the loss of not only just the educational services that you talk about, about how to try to encourage us to be better and healthier individuals, but sick people who are in immediate need of care were going to be turned away from locked doors and they were going to be turned out to emergency rooms, and emergency rooms were going to be overwhelmed and our County would sustain a health crisis of unprecedented magnitude.

So when one is presented with that, what happens is you get thrust into an environment where there are no good choices. There are horrible choices and there are less bad choices, if I can mangle the King's English. And so what we did is, as a group, we struggled mightily to try to add some revenue, and yes, Mary schooled us well by talking about the fact that our tax increase might have gone for broader funds, but we had to protect public safety as well. And so ultimately we came together with a compilation and what you have before you is the budget now that we're still agreeing that we're going to have some dialogue with our incoming County Executive about.

In a long-winded way, what I'm trying to say to you is don't think that we're rejecting your work or saying you should disband. Dr. Tomarken is not in the audience right now, he's actually out in the lobby, but I will ask him personally to go ahead and to assure to you and your group that whether the County staffers are in Planning or Health or on Mars, that they'll make some of their time available for your task force to continue to support it with the staff support that it needs. That is one of the harsh realities that we are facing going forward, that we will not be able to dedicate staff resources exclusively to function such as this, and you probably should have had more people with you. But that's our reality.

And so thank you for being here for us. Please continue to do the work that you're doing. And I'll have that conversation with Dr. Tomarken when he becomes available. If you -- and I will ask him to specifically seek you out to talk with you. Okay?

MR. DiBENEDETTO:

Great. I appreciate that.

LEG. KENNEDY:

You're welcome.

MR. DiBENEDETTO:

And in no way do I blame or consider you to be the enemies this. I understand that there had to be cuts made and I wouldn't want to be over there and having to make the cuts because you're never going to be right, you're always going to have some aspect of what you're doing that someone would take issue with.

In this case I am here, as you know, to just represent that saving this money is actually not even a savings of money because you get a couple of County employees that, in fact, end up with cancer because they were not allowed to have this prevention education and that money is gone again, and it's like that, and societal costs are way beyond. So this is an immediate health concern and I know you understand that. And I also enter this knowing that there is no way that you would let all of this important functionality in government just go. I'm just here to urge you to put this particular team together in a way that it remains as functional as it has been, because what has been achieved thus far is nothing compared to where we're going, because we're thinking in very big terms. I know I am and many other members of the task force are. So thank you.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Good. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So thank you for your presentation.

Applause

There you go, you impressed them.

*(*Laughter*)*

MR. DiBENEDETTO:

You're welcome.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. And right before we start the agenda, I know that Commissioner Blass is here and I know Dr. Tomarken is outside. Commissioner, do you have anything you would like to comment on?

COMMISSIONER BLASS:

(Shook head no.)

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

No? Okay, then I don't know if Dr. Tomarken has anything that he wanted to comment on, if there's anything on the agenda. I guess somebody is going to find out. I just wanted to know if there's anything on the agenda that you'd need to comment on before we start.

COMMISSIONER TOMARKEN:

Yes, we wanted to comment on the proposal.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Come on up.

COMMISSIONER TOMARKEN:

Do you want to do it now?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah, you might as well come on up. Which bill is it that you're -- Is it 1913? The first one in the tabled?

COMMISSIONER TOMARKEN:

Yeah, 2021, so it's 13 -- I'm sorry, 1922 -- 1913.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah. Do you have your mic on?

MS. ORTIZ:

No.

COMMISSIONER TOMARKEN:

Oh, sorry. It's 1913 and 2029.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Well, both of them I believe the sponsor, Legislator Anker, is going to be tabling 1913.

COMMISSIONER TOMARKEN:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And 2029 has to be tabled for public hearing anyway, so -- but what comments do you have? Go ahead with your comments.

COMMISSIONER TOMARKEN:

Yeah, we -- this whole issue is brand new to us. And just so you understand and appreciate, air quality is under the control of the State. And we have actually in 1990 gave up that responsibility and then recently actually mothballed and gave our trailer that we were using for testing to the State. We also do not have actually any personnel qualified to do this kind of work. So that's one issue.

The other is the actual bill itself and what it purports to do, and I'm going to let Jim Meyers make some comments about the actual bill itself and the elements that it's trying to address.

MR. MEYERS:

Jim Meyers with Health Services. We just had a few questions about the bill on its surface. We're looking at this as it's proposed, just as the air pollution regulation, not as anything more than that, and we're a little confused about some of the terms specifically. The term *salt* is probably too vague. Does it mean table salt, is it a chemical term for salt which is a combination of a base and an acid? Those things need to be worked out. There's a term Barium intended to mean elemental Barium, Barium compound, all barium compounds; the same thing for Sulfur, Sulfur intended to mean elemental Sulfur, Sulfur compounds or all Sulfur compounds, all the de minimus limits where this wouldn't apply. And also, there may be some unintended consequences of this regulation; probably all combustion sources would probably emit these things, so now it means we're now probably permeating essentially all combustion sources out there, which there's probably hundreds of thousands of combustion sources in Suffolk County. And it's also an area that's very heavily regulated by the State and Federal Government and it would be very cumbersome, I think to enter that arena. So those are some of the questions we have on the surface of the bill as is proposed.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Can I just ask questions?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Sure, go ahead.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Counsel, when I looked at this, I thought there might be a preemption. Because when I had tried to regulate the emissions from power plants, I knew that I could not address NOx and SOx because that's Federally regulated and so we limited it to capping CO2 emissions. Is there a preemption

problem with this Local Law?

MR. NOLAN:

I think it's certainly an issue with preemption, for the very reason you stated. You had come to our office a couple of years ago about a particular bill and we told you then we couldn't do it. You know, the one difference may be that this is just requiring an impact statement for people who want to emit stuff into the atmosphere. But it's certainly an issue we're going to have to look at and we'll issue a formal opinion on preemption if you would like us to.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I just have one more question about that. Usually when developers are developing housing or a business in an area, isn't it the town that would require their plans, etcetera, rather than an EIS to the County? It just seems that from either the more local level or the more, you know, State or Federal level, we seem to be squashed with preemption on either side.

MR. NOLAN:

Well, there's -- you know, I think the term impact statement is being used in this resolution, this law, but it's not the type of environmental impact statement we think of with SEQRA.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, it's not the SEQRA kind.

MR. NOLAN:

It's a form that basically the department is being directed to create a form.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh.

MR. NOLAN:

So it's not an environmental impact statement as per SEQRA.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I see.

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Madam Chair, if I could?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yes, go ahead.

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Walter Dawydiak, Acting Director of Environmental Quality. I just wanted to summarize in a nutshell that there's really two issues here; there's a programmatic regulatory issue and there's the environmental issue. And I just wanted to summarize as emphatically as I could that the way that this legislation is now written, it's a program with a capital "P". It would affect tens of thousands of potential air sources, it would require multiple staff people. We're estimating something on the order of a half million to a million dollars a year to beef up with the people and the equipment that we would need to actually manage, control, review, permit, approve all of these different sources. So as Dr. Tomarken mentioned, we don't have the resources or the expertise to do it at this point, so that's just a programmatic issue.

From an environmental perspective, the contaminants that have been mentioned, Barium, Aluminum and Sulfur, and we heard Strontium thrown around, we're primarily groundwater and drinking water people. I can tell you that by and large these are not major groundwater and drinking water

contaminants. With respect to air deposition, trees, echo system, other issues, this is really new to us. If any information is provided to you, we would be happy to look at it and report back to you in more detail. But as of this point, we just don't have the air experience to comment on that intelligently.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Have you reached out to the sponsor of the bill?

MR. DAWYDIK:

This literally just came to us in the last couple of days and I haven't had the opportunity.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Well, I know that obviously we have to table it because there is public hearings required, being it's a Local Law. You know, what, next Tuesday is, you know, our public hearings, and obviously if there's some things that need to be discussed with the sponsor, I would like to think that he would have some conversation with you between now and Tuesday.

LEG. ANKER:

Again, when I was working on the different pollution issues relating to health issues, the air -- an important source or an obvious source was the coal-burning power plants in middle of America, and what happens is the pollution would blow and it basically would hit northeast. We have the highest concentration of that pollution and that's one of the main sources of our pollution.

Another main source, of course, is transportation. And I met with a man this morning who's trying to encourage additional trains on Long Island, particularly the east end of Long Island. So again, transportation, the coal-burning plants, and another one was the power plants and I think that's when Legislator Vilorio-Fisher had mentioned, you know, trying to help reduce Port Jeff power plant, and of course Northport is the most polluting plant on Long Island with air particulate. But is there -- I don't know if you are familiar as far as trying to be proactive in addressing air pollution. Is there a way that on a County level that we can have some type of effect on State and Federal regulation to help regulate this air issue more productively?

MR. MEYERS:

We had a program 20 years ago, an air pollution program. It's a very labor intensive program, it's very specialized. The State actually has a very good program in place to review these sources. They look at the receptor impacts, these modeling -- before they approve sources. So on the surface of it, we're not professionals in air pollution anymore, it looks like a pretty good program. To duplicate their efforts and get a better program would be very labor intensive, I think.

LEG. ANKER:

I remember when I checked in with them, it was LILCO at the time but LIPA now, they basically monitored their own air emissions, I guess it's according to the DEC who I was in touch with also. And I think at that time, it was about seven years ago, there was only two air monitoring stations, I believe one in Riverhead and one in maybe Commack, more central-based Long Island. But again, you know, we -- it would be nice to get a better understanding of air quality and to have it monitored, you know, better like we do with the water. I think we're probably the number one monitoring agency probably in the country because, you know, you see how many times our well water is tested through Suffolk County Water Authority. But again, my question to you is can Suffolk County monitor the air in addition to State and Federal or is that pretty much where we are right now, that the State and Federal agencies that can monitor air quality?

MR. MEYERS:

We actual had an additional trailer that we actually did monitor the air in Suffolk County, that is now in the hands of the DEC, they actually use that trailer now. And the idea behind those trailers is not

to measure acidic areas, it's to measure Suffolk County globally, essentially, to come and get a background level of some of these contaminants, not its specific sources but what its conditions of, you know, Sulfur Dioxide, Ozone, things like that, in Suffolk County. It's really meant to be not as a bunch of different sources but what are the backgrounds? It's meant to be installed in an area where there are no pollution sources, so you kind of get a background level.

LEG. ANKER:

Right. And just one last note. After the State had conducted the cancer investigation, you know, with the cancer mapping project, they did, according to their air quality check, they noticed that Mount Sinai had an unusual high level of a chemical, I don't remember the name of the chemical, from a rubber plant over in Connecticut. So they were able to, I guess, pinpoint in Mount Sinai this particular chemical and, you know, maybe it's having to do with air circulation around Mount Sinai Harbor. But again, it would be nice if as a County agency if we could look into understanding our air quality and maybe taking measures to do that, but I understand there are courses and expense in that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. And I guess you mentioned about the need for additional staffing? I guess -- yeah, I don't have a financial impact statement attached to this. Maybe we could at some point before the vote is on this that we could get a financial impact? You have it right now? I just don't have it in my folder.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

We have to table to it today anyway for a public hearing.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah. I mean, we've got a lot more to go on this. Do we want to hold off? I mean, there is going to be a public hearing.

LEG. KENNEDY:

One question that I just had, and I'm sorry, I had to step out, I didn't hear it. But your assessment of this bill would be that if it was to go forward, you would need additional staff just to comply with the review process, Doctor?

COMMISSIONER TOMARKEN:

It's not just the -- the review process entails establishing guidelines, evaluating the technology and etcetera, etcetera. So it's not just looking at a piece of paper and saying yes or no, you have to know are they in compliance with what are the current standards and what are the current standards and how do we measure the current standards? How do we monitor this entity, whatever it might be. So it's not just, you know, approving a form.

LEG. KENNEDY:

We talk a lot about the fixed space, the mission points. Less than a half mile away from here we have an asphalt plant that your department has been very helpful with my office in the past, and on any given day maybe emitting God knows what. But we are in the process of getting some remedies, some stack increase, this, that and the other thing.

So the efforts that your department has put forward in the past, Mr. Hill in particular was tremendously helpful and beneficial, and he did assist us with spot analysis where you were able to go to particular points and get some reading that were able to demonstrate elevation on, you know, a plain of, I guess, contaminants. But that's not the only way that we get some of these materials that are introduced.

In speaking with the sponsor briefly, and I don't know if this is what his ultimate idea was, that there are -- some of these chemicals may intentionally be injected into the atmosphere for purposes of trying to generate rain or something like that, or just for general study. So there's multiple methods to inject these chemicals in the first instance. And I'm wondering if our State and Federal Clean Air Act and State Clean Air Act regulates that area as well, or is it only stack emissions, tail pipe emissions and things like that. Do we currently have regulation on intentional injection of chemicals into the atmosphere under any other of our regulatory schemes? Because if not, we really do have an area that we actually could move in, don't we?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

When we first got this legislation, it looked like a conventional air pollution control regulation that deals with fixed land-based sources. Literally just in the last 24 hours we were made aware that it relates to jet emissions and atmospheric injections. And I think it's fair to say that we have no real experience in this but we'd be happy to help research it.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. All right. I think -- I encourage the sponsor to have some conversation with you, but I think it is broader than what we just traditionally look at from, you know, fixed space, stack or tailpipe types of method. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. You're welcome. Do you have anything for us?

MR. FREAS:

We did a fiscal impact statement on this. Obviously, since -- and we determined that there's -- that the impact is indeterminant. It will include, of course, the cost the developing regulations, as the Commissioner stated, the record keeping for those, for that record. And the legislation might be subject to further amendment, although the speakers today seem to bring an intent that it would require regulation of the navigable air space of Suffolk County which is, as we know from our experience with the helicopter issue, not within our purview as a municipality. If it's not and the legislation stands as written, I mean, if you light a match you are discharging Sulfur into the atmosphere. So I think there are several issues with this.

There could be significant cost to developing it and also developed in the regulations as to how much would be reportable or what, and then how do you make people who -- if the citizen sponsors, if I may say, of the legislation seem to imply that people are doing this -- that these chemicals were being discharged illicitly, so for us to develop an environmental impact statement for them, for illicit discharges of chemicals, might -- and then give it to them might be difficult to enforce. In which case the cost would be that much more because we wouldn't be collecting any fees or fines.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So we need some more specifics in the bill itself, is what I'm understanding. And maybe after some discussion with the sponsor, what exactly he wants in the bill, what he's looking for the Health Department to do, then we can have a better financial impact statement. Okay. Thank you. And with that --

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I have a question to the Health Department.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Go ahead. And I never thought to ask, was there any other issues that you wanted to bring up?

COMMISSIONER TOMARKEN:

No.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I have a question about another bill, it's perplexing me. 1922, the legibility of prescription labels; I'm at a loss as to how we could possibly enforce this.

COMMISSIONER TOMARKEN:

This would be by complaint and we would be given the authority to fine a pharmacy on repeated basis if needed and that's the extent of what we could do. And I've spoken with Legislator Cooper about this and I think his ultimate intent is to try to bring this to the attention of the pharmacists so that if they -- if pharmacy X for some reason has faulty labels, that we bring it to their attention, hopefully they would make a change for the better. But beyond that, that's our limitations.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

So an individual would come to the Health Department with a label that's obscured by use or time?

COMMISSIONER TOMARKEN:

That would be it. And I actually mentioned to him, I said, "You know, we would then be potentially in the position that we would have to assume that the owner of the label of the prescription did nothing to it themselves," it was just --

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Like drop it in the sink

COMMISSIONER TOMARKEN:

Right, exactly, and it would be time that had done it, and there's no way we could know one way or the other. And I could see a pharmacist saying, you know, "I don't buy that. I think this has been damaged beyond what is sort of normal wear and tear."

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

So then, Counsel, what -- I mean, how do we adjudicate that? *(Laughter)*

MR. NOLAN:

We'll, I think --

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

What would determine it?

MR. NOLAN:

Well, we're leaving it up to the department to adjudicate those matters.

*(*Laughter*)*

COMMISSIONER TOMARKEN:

Thank you.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

John Kennedy, what do you think of this?

LEG. KENNEDY:

What do I think of what?

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

(Laughter) A person goes to the Health Department with a prescription bottle and the letters are all blurry and says to the Health Department, "My pharmacist gave me an inferior label."

LEG. KENNEDY:

Probably --

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

And the pharmacist said, "I gave them a perfectly good label. They probably dropped it in the toilet bowl."

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah, probably unenforceable. And as a matter of fact, script, like most other things, I think would be controlled by State Health and FDA. I mean, there's absolutely certain elements that have to be on the script that's issued in the first instance. Even the composition of the label and as to whether or not it's water-proofed or coded with an exterior, there are some regulations or requirements that are out there I think.

COMMISSIONER TOMARKEN:

Well, here's the irony. I've researched it and Legislator Cooper spoke to the State, although when we spoke to the State we had gotten a different answer, but the actual label itself -- not what's on the label, that's well regulated, the name and the drug and the dosage, but the actual label itself, there doesn't appear to be any regulations that say, you know, it must be this kind of paper with this kind of adhesive, etcetera, etcetera. And according to the State, what they said to Legislator Cooper was, "There's no legislation to prohibit you from regulating this." I don't know.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Again, my sense with this is that, you know, there's very few individual pharmacies any more, most of the pharmacies are large chain pharmacies, they have standard protocol and methodology that's out there. My own -- personally, I'm not in favor of supporting the bill because I would just be having a dialogue with the pharmacist association and the, you know, larger pharmacies to try to get voluntary compliance. That's what I think of that.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I think that would be. Thank you, Doctor.

MR. FREAS:

Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Go ahead.

MR. FREAS:

In the course of our research on this, we did find some State regulations that with respect to control substance prescriptions that require the bottle labels to adhere -- the labels had to adhere to the bottle and they had to be a certain legibility, separate from the Federal regulations on it. And I would assume that because the controlled substance lists would not necessarily need to be separated from non -- stuff that's not on the list, the pharmacies are complying with those laws and they probably, at least de facto, make the local regulation of this possibly redundant.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. I think we're good to go. Is that it, Doctor? Okay. So I guess we will move with the agenda.

We'll start with **Tabled Resolutions, 1913-11 - Establishing a Legislative Committee to provide guidance and streamline the permitting process for waste water and food services (Anker).**

LEG. ANKER:

Motion to able.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to table by Legislator Anker. I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

It's tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

1922-11 - Adopting Local Law No. 2011, a Local Law to ensure the integrity and legibility of prescription labels in Suffolk County (Cooper). Make a --

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to table for public hearing, Legislator Viloría-Fisher. I'll second. All in favor? Opposed?

Abstentions? ***It's tabled for public hearing (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

1941-11 - Amending the 2011 Adopted Operating Budget to accept and appropriate 100% Federal Grant funds passed through the New York State Department of Health to the Suffolk County Department of Health Services for Immunization Action Plan (County Executive).

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar by Legislator Viloría-Fisher. I'll second it.

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***It's approved (and placed on the Consent Calendar - VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

1942-11 - Amending the 2011 Adopted Operating Budget to accept and appropriate 100% additional State Aid from the New York State Office of Mental Health for the provision of Respite Services for Children (County Executive). I'll make a motion -- same motion, same second, same vote. ***(Approved and placed on the Consent Calendar (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

1943-11 - Amending the 2011 Adopted Operating Budget to transfer funds from Alternatives Counseling Center, Inc. Alternatives for Youth Program to the Project Outreach Alternatives for Youth Program (County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve. Second, Legislator Anker. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***It is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)***

1944-11 - Accepting and appropriating 100% Federal grant funds passed through the New York State Department of Health to the Suffolk County Department of Health Services for the Falls Prevention for Older Adults Initiative (County Executive).

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I'll make the motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion by Legislator Viloría-Fisher. Second, Legislator --

MR. NOLAN:

The consent calendar.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Oh, and place on the Consent Calendar, yes. Second by Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *It's approved (and placed on the Consent Calendar).*
(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)

1952-11 - Accepting and appropriating 100% grant funding from the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to the Suffolk County Department of Social Services for the continuation of services provided under the Community Solutions for Transportation Project and authorizing the County Executive and the Commissioner of Social Services to execute a contract (County Executive). Same motion, same second, same vote?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Sounds good.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay.

1953-11 - Accepting and appropriating \$172,908 in 100% Federal funding under the Shelter Plus Care Grant Renewal Program from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and authorizing a contract with United Veterans Beacon House, Inc (County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar. All in favor? Oh, sorry. Second, Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? *It's approved (and placed on the Consent Calendar) (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).*

1954-11 - Accepting 100% grant funding in the amount of \$59,862 awarded by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to the Suffolk County Department of Social Services for the continuation of the Health Care Jobs 2 Program administered by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (County Executive). I guess same motion, same second, same vote. *Approved and placed on the Consent Calendar) (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).*

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Madam Chair, before we go to the next one?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Sure.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I just wanted to say that that's a number of 100% grants and if any of those were competitive, congratulations to our departments for getting them.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

There you go.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Since as we all know, we have no money, it's great to get out there and --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

It's good to get money (*laughter*).

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

-- beat the bushes, you know.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

1960-11 - Declaring October "Bullying Prevention Awareness Month" in Suffolk County (Cooper). I'll make a motion to approve. Second, Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***It's approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

1967-11 - To amend the composition of the Sober Home Oversight Board (Browning).

I'll make a motion to approve. Second, Legislator -- anybody?

LEG. EDDINGTON:

I'll second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***It's approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

1974-11 - Appropriating funds for the purchase and installation of generators for full power supply at County owned health centers (CP 4008) (County Executive).

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I'll make a motion to approve, but I have --

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Yeah, I was going to ask about this.

LEG. KENNEDY:

How much is this?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And I'll second it.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Yeah, don't we already have generators at all our centers?

MR. FREAS:

No, we do not.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Wow.

MR. FREAS:

It's \$228,000.

LEG. KENNEDY:

On the motion. And these are portable or fixed space generators?

MR. FREAS:

These are fixed space generators at the Shirley and Tri-Community Health Center. I believe this is the planning and construction funds for the Tri-Community facility.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Is this for like evacuation purposes and emergencies?

MR. FREAS:

Well, it's for emergency power generation. We -- as I mentioned, there are no generators at any of the facilities. Well, Riverhead does because it's part of the County Center and it has its own power plant. The Health Services Administration building on Rabro Drive currently has a fixed site generator for emergency purposes and they keep a substantial amount of medication and vaccines there. The previous practice had been to -- if there was a power outage in a health center, the vaccines, which have to be kept at certain temperatures, would then have to be transferred by the administrator or whoever the duty person was to -- they had arrangements with local fire departments. Also, if the power goes out during or post-weather emergency or something like that, the health centers aren't available. With the generators that will be purchased under this project, they would become capable of operating even without power.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Because we recently had an issue, was it in the Shirley Center or the Patchogue Center, where there was a power outage? But I'm just curious because in the event of a hurricane III or IV, category III or IV, I know that anything south of Montauk Highway, which is what the Shirley Center is, would never be an evacuation shelter and they generally say you need to move north of Sunrise Highway. So what happens?

COMMISSIONER TOMARKEN:

Well, the purpose of these generators is to be able to run the health centers, the ones that we control, in times of a disaster. So that if there was some sort of disaster or hurricane or whatever, at least our County health centers would be open. With EMR, we would have patients coming from all the other places that could get to us. So it's a matter of not only the vaccines but running the health centers as clinics in times of a disaster.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

But what if the Shirley Health Center is in an evacuation zone?

MR. FREAS:

Shirley is in a slosh zone I think for a III and above.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Right.

COMMISSIONER TOMARKEN:

But that's only one kind of disaster.

MR. FREAS:

Right, right. And the other thing is it does give them the ability, say if Patchogue's power is out and Shirley's is out, as Dr. Tomarken says, it let's you bring vaccines and patients eventually into that facility for care.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I just have a question.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay, sure.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Although we're looking at another management model for the Elsie Owens Center, are we -- because it is still one of our centers, are we looking to have a generator there in the future?

MR. FREAS:

It's not our building.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, okay. Is there --

MR. FREAS:

It was actually one of the ones that was -- had been selected I think when this project was done about -- first started two or three years ago. But it's not our building, so we would have the similar problem we had actually with CPEP, only, you know, at least CPEP is another governmental entity. The Owens Center is a build-to-suit lease.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

So if you have a lease, you can't have a portable generator?

MR. FREAS:

We can't do a capital project.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

I see. Okay.

MR. FREAS:

For a private entity.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Right, because we don't own it. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Are we good? Oh, one more question.

LEG. ANKER:

Is this in our budget coming up?

MR. FREAS:

It's on the capital side. Yes, its in the 2012 Capital.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. I don't think -- you may want to tell me what the next one is going to be when we get there, but I believe we had a motion and I seconded that. So all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***It's approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

And the next one, ***1975-11 - Appropriating funds in connection with the purchase of equipment for health centers (CP 4055) (County Executive).*** I'm trying to see, what kind of equipment are we buying?

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Examination room equipment?

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I don't see --

MR. FREAS:

Ma'am? In this particular case, it's \$187,750. I believe about 122,000 of it is for power examination tables for the Brentwood Health Center; their turn, so to speak.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. Everybody's good?

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Good.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

So I'll make a motion to approve. Second, Legislator Viloria-Fisher All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***And it is approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

2002-11 - Extending the Welfare to Work Commission (Browning).

I'll make a motion to approve.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second, Legislator Viloria-Fisher, I should let you do that.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, I don't mind.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second, Legislator Viloria-Fisher. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***It's approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)***

2003-11 - Adopting Local Law No. -2011, A Local Law to facilitate emergency housing of sex offenders in non-residential areas (Schneiderman). I believe --

MR. NOLAN:

Table.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Table? Motion to table for public hearing. Second, Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***It's tabled for public hearing (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

2029-11 - Adopting Local Law No. -2011, A Local Law to protect air quality in Suffolk County (Romaine). I make a motion to -- same motion, same second I guess, ***table for a public hearing***, same vote. ***Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

2032-11 - Adopting Local Law No. -2011, A Local Law to increase medical examiner fees (Presiding Officer Lindsay). Again, same motion, same second, same vote. ***Tabled for a public hearing (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).***

With that, we have no more on the agenda and we will adjourn.

D.P.O. VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM*)